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5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

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Congress of the United States
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May 14, 2018

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The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Secretary Azar and Administrator Pruitt:

I write to request that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) immediately release the preliminary toxicological assessment on perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as prepared by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Today it was reported that your departments intervened to block the publication of a federal health study on a nationwide water contamination crisis. According to media reports, the ATSDR assessment shows that PFOA and PFOS are dangerous chemicals that endanger human health at far lower levels than the EPA previously acknowledged. Instead of worrying about public health, it was reported that Trump Administration officials worried about a "public relations nightmare" if the report became public, and actively worked to prevent its publication. Months have gone by and the study remains unpublished.

Americans deserve to have the most up-to-date information regarding these chemicals that are increasingly affecting many people's lives. Residents in my district have been negatively impacted by PFOA and PFOS chemical contamination in drinking water and groundwater around military bases, including former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Mich. PFOA and PFOS are known to cause harmful health issues like cancer, as well as thyroid, kidney, liver, heart and reproductive problems.

The top priority of both HHS and the EPA should be protecting public health. I call on the Trump Administration to immediately release this PFOA and PFOS report so that the public has the most up-to-date information available on these dangerous chemicals, and so the EPA can move forward to create enforceable drinking water standards regarding these chemicals.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS